

a1  
cont  
the digital audio data stream has multi-channels, the output section 3 outputs time series data (PCM audio data) output from the decoding section 1 into a plurality of digital/analog converters corresponding to respective channels or to a plurality of digital audio interface receivers.

*Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 12, with:*

a2  
However, in case of the audio decoding apparatus disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2000-278136, memory requirement or bus transmission requirement increases because of the additional tag data added to each of the PCM audio data. For example, if the PCM audio data are 24 bits and the tag data are 8 bits, then total PCM audio data becomes 27 Kbytes and total tag data becomes 9 Kbytes for one audio frame (1 K byte = 1024 bytes). Thus, in this example, the total memory requirement and bus transmission requirement becomes 36 K bytes.

*Replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8, with:*

a3  
Fig. 9 is a schematic diagram showing the structure of PCM audio data output from a conventional audio decoding apparatus.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

*Replace the indicated claims with::*

- a4
1. (Amended) An audio decoding method comprising:  
receiving audio data including a plurality of coded sample data;  
decoding the coded sample data;  
grouping a plurality of the sample data, after decoding, into a block;  
adding control information relating to an attribute to each block;  
temporarily storing the blocks; and  
outputting the sample data of each block, temporarily stored, based on the control information added to the respective block.